



U.S. Department of Transportation
Bureau of Transportation Statistics
Washington, D.C.
www.bts.gov
BTS DATA

BTS 31-04
Friday, Nov. 12, 2004

Contact: Roger Lotz
Tel.: 202-366-2246

**BTS Releases August Airline Traffic Data;
Eight-Month Domestic Traffic Up 7.5 Percent From 2003**

U.S. airlines carried 7.5 percent more domestic passengers and flew 3.9 percent more domestic flights during the first eight months of this year than they did during the same period last year, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) today reported, in a release of preliminary data (Table 1).

The airlines carried 424.8 million domestic passengers during the first eight months of 2004, up from the 395.3 million in 2003. These passengers were carried on 6.6 million flights, up 3.9 percent from the 6.4 million flights operated in 2003 (Table 2).

In other domestic comparisons from the first eight months of 2003 to the first eight months of 2004:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 10.5 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 8.3 percent.

Load factor, a measure of how many seats are sold and used, was up 1.5 percentage points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance, was up 4.7 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance passengers travel, was up 2.8 percent.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 54.8 million domestic passengers during the first eight months of 2004, the most of any airline (Table 3).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel during the first eight months of 2004, with 25.5 million passenger boardings (Table 4).

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**AIR TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
ADD ONE**

August 2004 Airline Traffic

In August 2004, U.S. airlines carried 56.2 million domestic passengers, 3.5 percent more than in August 2003 (Table 5).

These passengers were carried on 826,614 flights, down 2.2 percent from the flights operated in August 2003, reflecting the effect of hurricanes in the South.

In other month-to-month domestic comparisons from August 2003 to August 2004:

Revenue passenger miles, a measure of the number of passengers and the distance flown, were up 6.9 percent.

Available seat-miles, a measure of airline capacity, were up 6.8 percent.

Load factor, a measure of how many seats are sold and used, was up 0.1 percentage points.

Flight stage length, the average non-stop distance, was up 7.9 percent.

Passenger trip length, the average distance passengers travel, was up 3.3 percent.

The number of domestic airline passengers declined 6.1 percent in August from July (Table 1). Month-to-month comparisons may be affected by seasonal factors.

Among airlines, Southwest Airlines carried 7.4 million domestic passengers during August, the most of any airline (Table 6).

Among airports, Hartsfield-Jackson International in Atlanta was the busiest U.S. airport for domestic travel during August, with 3.3 million passenger boardings (Table 7).

Additional airline traffic data can be found on the BTS website at TranStats, the Intermodal Transportation Database at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. Click on "Aviation," then on "Air Carrier Statistics (Form 41 Traffic)," then click on "T-100 Domestic Market."

Data are compiled from monthly reports filed with BTS by commercial air carriers detailing operations, passenger traffic and freight traffic. August traffic data are preliminary and include data received by BTS from 160 airlines as of Nov. 9. Data are subject to revision.

Revised data from July 2004 and previous months are posted on the BTS website at <http://transtats.bts.gov>. BTS will release September traffic data on Dec. 9.

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**AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
ADD TWO**

Table 1. Total Industry Domestic Enplanements

Month	2003	2004
January	43,340,153	44,158,500
February	41,503,697	45,658,181
March	50,436,202	54,563,436
April	47,411,468	53,654,125
May	49,461,885	53,363,735
June	52,587,984	57,285,157
July	56,200,411	59,869,975
August	54,370,516	56,246,379
September	44,619,685	
October	50,396,545	
November	47,501,933	
December	50,171,775	
Jan-August Total	395,312,316	424,799,488

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Table 2: Domestic Airline Travel January to August

	Jan-Aug 2003	Jan-Aug 2004
Passengers	395,312,316	424,799,488
Flights	6,365,595	6,611,025
Revenue Passenger Miles(000)	335,530,738	370,754,298
Available Seat-Miles(000)	453,824,528	491,618,183
Load factor	73.9%	75.4%
Flight stage length	575	602
Passenger trip length	849	873

Source: T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

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AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
ADD THREE

Table 3. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by January to August 2004 Domestic Enplanements

Rank	Airline Name	Jan-Aug 2003	Jan-Aug 2004	Jan-Aug 2003 Rank
1	Southwest Airlines	50,608,209	54,826,178	2
2	Delta Air Lines	52,627,725	53,883,756	1
3	American Airlines	49,579,706	49,336,398	3
4	United Airlines	38,219,862	40,781,323	4
5	Northwest Airlines	29,290,335	30,997,587	5
6	U.S. Airways	25,288,418	25,470,731	6
7	Continental Airlines	20,928,261	21,280,188	7
8	America West Airlines	13,012,679	13,443,957	8
9	Alaska Airlines	8,827,573	9,654,633	9
10	American Eagle Airlines	7,630,488	9,336,644	11

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Table 4. Top 10 Airports ranked by January-August 2004 Domestic Enplanements

Rank	Airport Name	Jan-Aug 2003	Jan-Aug 2004	Jan-Aug 2003 Rank
1	Hartsfield-Jackson Int'l	23,896,696	25,477,138	1
2	O'Hare Int'l	19,048,168	20,725,812	2
3	Dallas-Ft. Worth Int'l	15,303,605	17,310,821	3
4	Los Angeles Int'l	13,293,456	14,456,522	4
5	Denver Int'l	11,595,202	13,322,280	6
6	Las Vegas McCarran Int'l	11,232,292	12,845,259	7
7	Phoenix Sky Harbor Int'l	12,002,874	12,325,351	5
8	Minneapolis-St. Paul Int'l	10,122,527	10,988,197	8
9	Detroit Metro - Wayne County	9,448,574	10,145,550	9
10	Orlando Int'l	8,518,699	9,923,316	11

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Table 5: Domestic Airline Travel in August

	Aug. 2003	Aug. 2004	Pct. Change
Passengers	54,370,516	56,246,379	3.5
Flights	845,010	826,614	-2.2
Revenue Passenger Miles(000)	47,425,372	50,678,356	6.9
Available Seat-Miles(000)	60,241,602	64,315,142	6.8
Load factor	1	1	0.1
Flight stage length	577	622	7.9
Passenger trip length	872	901	3.3

Source: T-100 Domestic Market and Segment

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**AIRLINE TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE
ADD FOUR**

Table 6. Top 10 Airlines, ranked by August 2004 Domestic Enplanements

Rank	Airline Name	Aug. 2003	Aug. 2004	Aug 2003 Rank
1	Southwest Airlines	6,836,277	7,360,084	2
2	Delta Air Lines	7,009,446	6,999,817	1
3	American Airlines	6,699,904	6,407,856	3
4	United Airlines	5,223,454	5,818,290	4
5	Northwest Airlines	4,050,711	4,278,215	5
6	U.S. Airways	3,370,622	3,286,876	6
7	Continental Airlines	2,806,609	2,786,578	7
8	America West Airlines	1,779,472	1,823,230	8
9	Alaska Airlines American Eagle	1,393,919	1,478,362	9
10	Airlines	1,044,966	1,264,545	11

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

Table 7. Top 10 Airports ranked by August 2004 Domestic Enplanements

Rank	Airport Name	Aug. 2003	Aug. 2004	Aug 2003 Rank
1	Hartsfield-Jackson Int'l	3,228,738	3,272,736	1
2	O'Hare Int'l	2,570,836	2,872,410	2
3	Dallas-Ft. Worth Int'l	2,065,408	2,202,233	3
4	Los Angeles Int'l	1,936,226	2,071,603	4
5	Denver Int'l	1,664,542	1,808,108	5
6	Las Vegas McCarran Int'l	1,521,327	1,668,595	6
7	Minneapolis-St. Paul Int'l	1,450,908	1,557,454	8
8	Phoenix Sky Harbor Int'l	1,516,570	1,408,554	7
9	Seattle-Tacoma Int'l Detroit Metropolitan	1,314,907	1,406,864	9
10	Wayne County	1,275,742	1,378,211	10

Source: T-100 Domestic Market

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